



**Sixth Annual  
K4C Construction Career Days  
September 29-30, 2010  
Shelby County Fairgrounds  
Shelbyville, KY**

For the sixth year, the Kentucky Construction Career Choice Council (K4C) held its annual Construction Career Days event at the Shelby County Fairground in Shelbyville, KY. An assortment of hands-on activities for approximately 2,000 students was offered by the 60+ vendors representing construction trade associations. All efforts pointed to an outstanding example of education and industry professionals working together to positively promote careers in the construction industry.

Mac Crawford, owner and president of Crawford Builders and president of Homebuilders Association of Kentucky, Inc., is a committed K4C member and has this to say about why he is so deeply involved in the annual construction career fair event:

**Crawford:**

*“The goal is to expose construction careers to all students. This type of major undertaking works because of the strong connections between the tech centers and associations in K4C.*

*“Skills training and a work ethic must continue to be taught at the secondary level. Kentucky Tech and locally operated technical centers provide a valuable and needed service in training our future workforce. And, that future workforce is critical to the overall success of the construction industry.*

*“I’m here because technical training was there for me when I was in school. Those skills gave me an opportunity to be employed. I’m involved in this project to show that industry and education can work together to make this a success.”*

**Mac Crawford**  
Owner/President

“The one thing I have always stressed in my company is to always try to do the right thing and take pride in our work.”



*Permission to use photo was given by  
Mr. Mac Crawford.*





*At left: Representatives of K4C executive committee (l to r): Joel Berkley, KAPHCC; Christine Parsons, Parsons Electric; Kevin Gray, KMI; Lora Werner, HBAK; Donna Breeden, HBAK; Chad LaRue, KAHCC; Mac Crawford, HBAK, and Tommy Sutton, retired OCTE academic consultant.*

According to K4C's website (<http://www.k4c.org/>), "The purposes of the Kentucky Construction Career Choice Council (K4C) are to promote the construction industry, recruit individuals to refine their career potential in construction, and

provide financial assistance to encourage and sustain workforce development."

For more information about the Kentucky Construction Career Choice Council, please contact Lora Werner, director of member services, at (800) 489-4225.

**Werner:**

*"The purpose of the K4C committee is to provide high school students in Kentucky with a first-hand look at construction related careers. We all feel that career days and workforce development provide the student with the many construction career choices that are available to them right in their own communities.*

*"Our exhibitors say they enjoy having the opportunity to work with students and that they make every effort to attend each year. K4C is a team effort that provides a much needed service to the future of our industry."*





*At left: KY Tech Breckinridge Co. ATC delegation. Over the two day event, 6 adults and 146 students actively took part in the 2010 K4C Construction Career Fair.*

*Carpentry instructor Joe Stinnett (far left) and Principal Larry Mattingly (far right) were impressed with the diverse activities and support from business and industry vendors.*

*"This is a worthy field trip for students because it brings the real world into the classroom," said Stinnett.*

**Photo at right: KY Tech-Shelby County ATC delegation.**

**Each year, Shelby Co. student organizations (FBLA, HOSA, and SkillsUSA) staff a concession stand by selling refreshments to participants over the two day event. When students are not working, they have an opportunity to participate in activities.**



**Photo at left: HOSA students, under the supervision of Shelby Co. ATC health sciences instructor Sherry Allen, provide participants with a courtesy service by taking their blood pressure.**

**"It is important for my students to be here because they can practice their skills and help educate others about the risks of high blood pressure," says Allen.**





# Patron Sponsors

*Students build small storage crates supervised by HBAK members – an activity that is widely received as positive by students and K4C members. The hands-on project has been in place since the inception of the construction career fair.*



**Photo at left: Mac Crawford enjoys watching a student build the storage crate.**

**Photo above: Bill Hodges, HBAK past president puts an HBAK sticker on a student who completed the task.**

# Patron Sponsors

**McKibben:**

***“The AGC of Kentucky are very pleased to have participated in this important event since its beginning. This is the future workforce of both the construction industry and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.”***

***For more information regarding the Associated General Contractors of Kentucky, visit <http://www.agcky.org/>***



***John McKibben, AGC director of marketing talks with KY Tech-Breckinridge Co. ATC students Luke Bashan, Kodi Dore, and Ikey Lucas.***



## ***KY Association of Highway Contractors***

***LaRue:***

***“This type of an event is important because it allows us to speak directly with students. It’s important to make kids aware of the job opportunities in the highway construction industry.”***

***For more information on KAHC, visit <http://www.kahc.org/>***

***At left: (L to r): Chad LaRue, KAHC director of membership services, talks with a student about the highway construction industry.***



# *Parsons Electric, Inc. is a 2010 Bronze Sponsor*

*Christine Parsons  
Parsons Electric, Inc.  
K4C member and former chairwoman:*



*"As the Kentucky Construction Career Choice Council contemplated ways to achieve the group's mission statement, the idea of a Construction Career Day was presented. These events are held around the country and have hosted over 300,000 students since 1999.*

*"The construction industry employs more than 7.7 million people in the United States and it is projected that there will be 1 million new jobs created by 2016. The average age of the construction worker today is 48. Many will retire in the coming years which presents the need for bringing more young adults into the industry.*

*"The Kentucky Construction Career Days event is a combined effort of construction industry associations, contractors, educators, volunteers, suppliers, and more. It is exciting to offer students a hands-on look into all the potential careers in the industry.*

*"The construction industry will always be a viable career choice. From the homes we live in, the schools we work in and the roads that get us from place to place - construction effects everyone's life. And, it takes a multitude of people to raise a building from the ground. Architects, engineers, equipment operators, skilled crafts people, project managers, contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and more take pride in their contribution to each project. That's why we believe in sharing the industry with the young adults in Kentucky."*



*Parsons is pictured with  
Barry Wooten, a project manager  
in the company.*

## *IEC is a 2010 Bronze Sponsor*



*Photo: Dan Endris, (Kentucky and Southern Indiana) Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc. executive director talks to a student about new technology in the electrical field. He is flanked by Susan Howell, assistant exec. director and apprenticeship coordinator.*

### *Endris:*

*"Young people are not sure what all the opportunities are. This is a way for us to connect with the younger generation so that we know what interests and excites them about the industry. That way, they know we are here to help them pursue a trade that can provide a long term career. Students can see what electricians do and this exposure is a valuable resource."*

### *John Marks OCTE executive director:*

*"The OCTE is supportive of the K4C and the mission they have undertaken to organize the annual Construction Career Days event. The collaboration among all members demonstrates the value they place on providing an opportunity for students to understand the many career fields the construction industry can offer."*

*"We know students from carpentry, electricity, HVAC, welding, and construction programs were exposed to industry professionals, postsecondary instructors from KCTCS and other institutions, heavy equipment, hand tools and a variety of vendors. We believe this is an indication of the importance teachers place on the learning environment their students experience on this field trip. We also know our instructors make valuable industry contacts."*





## *Morton Buildings is a 2010 Bronze Sponsor*



*Always a crowd pleaser, Morton Buildings has been part of the Construction Career Days event for the past 6 years. Students enjoy having an opportunity to look out over the entire fairgrounds on top of the Morton Scissor Lift Truck.*



# *Gray Construction is a 2010 Bronze Sponsor*



*At left: KY Tech-Webster Co. ATC students listen to a presentation given by Mr. Wayne Doller, Gray Construction civil engineering manager.*

*According to Doller, Gray Construction understands the value of this type of event and knows that it must continue to “replenish the wealth.”*

*For more information on Gray Construction, visit <http://www.gray.com>*

## *KY Tech-Meade Co. ATC continues tradition of participating in K4C event*

*Campbell:*

*“We attended the construction event by bringing three buses loaded with SkillsUSA members who really enjoyed the day. Students said they had a good time, learned a lot, and appreciated getting hard hats and safety glasses.*

*“This is educational for our students, and we greatly appreciate all the businesses and companies who donate their time and money to promote careers in the construction industry. It offers students so much. We also appreciate all the work of OCTE staff that were so instrumental in providing this opportunity.”*



*Part of KY Tech Meade Co. ATC delegation –  
Faye Campbell, principal.*



**“Bolt in the Hole” and “Quick Draw” games once again drive students to compete for prizes and experience personal satisfaction in showing off skills.**



**Ray Genet  
Supervisor of technical training  
Whayne Supply Company:**

***“The Kentucky Equipment Distributors (K.E.D.) stress the need for trained heavy equipment and diesel technicians. Today’s high tech systems on heavy equipment require trained technicians to service and maintain the sophisticated electronics, hydraulics, and engines found on small to large earth moving equipment.***

***“Finding motivated young adults that are interested in pursuing this challenging career field is what brings the leading equipment distributors to this event.***

***“Technical education is critical in our state to keep industry moving forward.”***



**“Bolt in the Hole” game once again drives students to compete for prizes and experience personal satisfaction in showing off skills.**



*Photo above: Jerry Roberts, service operations specialist and Jonathan Vincent, technical training instructor for Wayne Supply Co. conduct “Bolt in the Hole” game.*

**Roberts:**

*“If students are looking to get in the heavy equipment or construction equipment fields, then a heavy equipment dealer is where they need to be.”*

**Kentucky Equipment Distributors**

Brandeis Machinery & Supply Co.  
Holt Equipment Co.  
Process Machinery, Inc.  
Wayne Supply Co.

Rude Equipment Co.  
Wilson Equipment Co.

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**Steve Phillippi**  
**SkillsUSA Kentucky state director:**



*"The Kentucky Construction Career Days is the capstone event for construction students enrolled in career and technical education programs throughout the commonwealth."*

*"SkillsUSA Kentucky set up an information booth on site. This event brings students, teachers, business and industry together in a construction awareness venue."*

*"I can not say enough about our construction partners. They are assisting career and technical education in delivering a new generation of skilled and motivated leaders for Kentucky's future workforce."*



**Photo at left: Steve Phillippi ( front left) and Emily Wash pose with students who visited the SkillsUSA Kentucky information booth.**

**Students were eligible to register to win a Kobalt Tool Set.**

**Winner of the 2-Day event was:**

**Evan Taylor  
KY Tech-Meade County ATC**

**[Click here to visit the SkillsUSA Kentucky web site](#)**





*Bluegrass Community and Technical College. Photo (l to r): Claude Gross, construction technology coordinator and K4C team member; KY Tech-Ohio Co. ATC instructors Marty Cruze, carpentry and Tim Hall, electrical technology.*

#### **Gross:**

*"I have seen the Construction Career Day event grow into one of the best field trips of the year for many teachers and students.*

*"As the Bluegrass Community and Technical College construction technology programs coordinator, I get great satisfaction in the fact that we are able to promote our name out to all the 2000 plus students that attend each year.*

*"The event is an opportunity to recruit students from KY Tech and locally operated career and technical education schools. Through this event, students become more familiar with the construction industry and can see firsthand the opportunities that are available. This in turn makes our construction program more attractive to those students."*

#### **Elizabethtown Community and Technical College**

*Photo: Carpentry Instructor Robert Woodson watches as Anthony Ross, a KY Tech Carroll Co. ATC carpentry student, tries to beat the lowest time for the nail contest. Ross is a student of instructor Timothy Mason. "The event was pretty cool because we can try different skills and meet people from colleges," said Ross.*

*Upon graduation, Ross plans to pursue a career in architecture.*

#### **Woodson:**

*"I'm a former student of Don Atwell, who taught carpentry at the KY Tech-Bullitt County Area Technology Center. Now, I'm a carpentry instructor. I know events like this get students interested in construction because they can see the real world in action and get to talk with people about career choices."*

*"For me, this is a high-quality recruitment effort."*





# ***MSD – Metropolitan Sewer District (Louisville and Jefferson County) provides numerous activities and displays during 2010 K4C Construction Career Day event***



*Photo above: Daren Thompson, MSD flood protection supervisor talks with Steve Phillippi, SkillsUSA Kentucky state director.*

**Thompson:**

*"It is important to attend an event like this because we have an aging workforce. We need energetic and enthusiastic people coming into the profession."*



# Robert Bosch Tool Corporation



**Photo above (l to r): KY Tech-Harrison Co. ATC industrial maintenance technology students Aaron Ritchie, Grant Bridges, and Josh Marshall learn about new tools and construction equipment from Bosch professional manager Roger Barron. All are students of instructor Mark Hobbs.**



**Photo above (l to r): Jared Powell watches as Jason Maddox, Bosch district sales manager, talks about the new Bosch electric saw. Powell is an industrial maintenance technology student under the direction of KY Tech-Carroll Co. ATC instructor Chuck Hollingsworth.**





**At left: Robert Riggs of Robert Riggs Sales Service, Inc. and Donna Breeden, HBAK.**

**Riggs:**

**"This event allows the student to think – what am I going to do and how am I going to get there."**



**At left: Ronnie Boggs, area coordinator, Indiana/Kentucky Regional Council of Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship and Training Fund talks with a student about career choices.**

**Roy Wallace (left) and Shane Finch of Senninger Plumbing Co., Inc. instruct a student how to correctly solder copper to a water line.**

**Mark Senninger has been an active member of the K4C's career day event from the beginning.**



**KY Tech-Carroll Co. ATC participants Jared Eskew, carpentry student; Chuck Hollingsworth, industrial maintenance technology instructor; Bret Dawson, carpentry student; and Tim Mason, carpentry instructor visit the IMI exhibit.**

**"This is great because my students get to see the big picture," said Mason.**

**"I'm glad my students canspeak with representatives from different colleges," said Hollingsworth."**



**Collectively, instructors and administrators alike feel the K4C Construction Career Days event is a outstanding opportunity for students to see how what they are learning in the classroom correlates into a real world career choice. Why? Quite simply - students can meet various business, industry and higher education professionals - they have an opportunity to operate heavy machinery, use a variety of tools, discuss skill sets, chart a postsecondary path, and hear what they can earn in their field of choice. Many believe students will remember this day as a highlight in their high school experience.**

**K4C members understand the value of hosting an event of this magnitude because there is a dire need to positively promote “rewarding careers in the commercial, residential and highway construction industries.” Quite simply – the industries need a skilled workforce.**



**Top left photo: KY Tech-Letcher Co. ATC group (Harrison Boggs, carpentry instructor – third from left and Tom Collins, welding instructor – far right.)**



**Bottom left photo: KY Tech-Meade Co. ATC group (David McCoy, welding instructor – second from left.)**

**KENTUCKY TECH** nically Speaking

**Good News Story #334**

**By: Fran Dundon**

**Office of Career and Technical Education  
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet  
February 16, 2011**

